

DARBY STORE
19801 Darnestown Road
Beallsville
Montgomery County
Maryland

HABS MD-1377
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DARBY STORE

HABS No. MD-1377

Location: 19801 Darnestown Road, Beallsville, Montgomery County, Maryland

The Darby Store was located at latitude: 39.179524, longitude: -77.412909 prior to its move 27' to the north and west in summer 2011. This coordinate represented the northeast corner of the building. It was obtained using Google Earth imagery, dated August 28, 2010. The Darby Store has no restriction on its release to the public.

Significance: The Darby Store is significant as one of the few extant examples of a rural, vernacular general store dating from the early twentieth century in Montgomery County. It was an important contributing element to the crossroads community of Beallsville and is now part of the Beallsville Historic District.

Description: Located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Barnesville-Poolesville Road (Route 109) and Darnestown Road (Old Baltimore Road, Route 28), the two-and-a-half story, balloon-framed structure is clad in clapboards and has a front-gable roof. Over 50 percent of the wood used in the building is chestnut. The store now sits on a new concrete foundation.¹ The front (south) façade faces Darnestown Road and features a door originally flanked by display windows. Wood decking once served as a sidewalk/porch at the main façade, and the entrance was covered by an overhang supported by metal poles. This had to be removed after a traffic accident in the last quarter of the twentieth century destroyed it. Doors and boarded windows (originally double-hung) are located on the other three facades. A gable-roof enclosure covers a door to the basement on the rear (north) facade.

The first floor originally contained the store, which was divided into two spaces (north and south) by a beadboard-covered partition. The commercial space still retains original features, such as wall shelving and counters, and has intact interior finishes, like beadboard on the walls and wood floors. The rear room has a stairwell providing access to the second floor. The stairs to the basement were also once located in this space but were removed at some point. The first floor framing consists of 2" x 10" joists laid east-west and situated from 14" to 16" on center.

¹ In its original location, the store sat on a concrete foundation, but the south half of the basement was a crawlspace while the north half was full height.

The second floor has an approximately 12' x 10' room at the southeast corner, but the rest is open. Three 2" x 6" joists joined as a girder support the second floor. The second floor framing is made up 2" x 12" joists spaced 16" on center. The roof is framed with 2" x 6" rafters sited 24" on center.²

History:

Beallsville developed as a crossroads community due to its location at the intersection of two significant roads in Montgomery County (routes 109 and 28), and its proximity to the Sellman Station on the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and to an important area church, Monocacy Chapel. Commercial buildings could be found at this intersection beginning in the mid-nineteenth century.

The Darby Store is located on what was once the Brewer farm. In 1891, the Allnutts bought the property, eventually selling it in 1908 to Harry Darby who tore down the existing buildings on the property and erected his own general store in 1910. The Darby Store became an important addition to the community as it supplied area farmers and residents of the small neighboring communities and even housed the post office in the 1920s. In 1921, the Darby family constructed a two-story frame house next to the store that still stands. In 1954, Harry's widow, Catherine, sold the property to her son, Harry Dunbar Darby, who continued operating the store until his retirement in 1974. The store has been vacant since.

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), Montgomery County Department of Parks bought the property in September 2004 through its Legacy Open Space Program. Due to the store's closeness to the intersection, the Montgomery County Department of Parks' Cultural Resources Stewardship Section decided to preserve the structure by moving it 27' to the north and west of its original location. After careful study and stabilization had been completed during 2010-2011, Expert House Movers, Inc. moved the store in summer 2011. The store will next be rehabilitated as plans for its future use are developed.³

² The current description of the store is based on site visits made by the recording team in summer 2011; Bell Architects, PC; Robert Silman Associates; AB Consultants, Inc.; and Anthony & Associates, Inc., consultants, "Darby Store Stabilization & Relocation," for The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, December 13, 2010, various sheets; framing dimension details from "Structural Condition Assessment, The Darby Store," January 23, 2009; and Lois Snyderman, "Beallsville Historic District," Maryland Historical Trust, State Historic Sites Inventory Form, February 2, 1985.

³ Snyderman, "Beallsville Historic District"; Darby Store Chain of Title, provided by M-NCPPC, Montgomery County Department of Parks, Cultural Resources Stewardship Section.

Sources:

Bell Architects, PC; Robert Silman Associates; AB Consultants, Inc.; and Anthony & Associates, Inc., consultants. "Darby Store Stabilization & Relocation." Prepared for Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. December 13, 2010. Various sheets.

Darby Store Chain of Title. Provided by Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery County Department of Parks, Cultural Resources Stewardship Section.

Snyderman, Lois. "Beallsville Historic District." Maryland Historical Trust, State Historic Sites Inventory Form, February 2, 1985.

"Structural Condition Assessment, The Darby Store." January 23, 2009. Provided by Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery County Department of Parks, Cultural Resources Stewardship Section.

Historian: Justine Christianson, HAER Historian, summer-fall 2011

Project

Information: The Darby Store Recording Project was undertaken for Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Cultural Resources Stewardship Section, Park Planning & Stewardship Division in spring-summer 2011. Julianne Mueller (M-NCPPEC) coordinated the project. Christopher Marston, HAER Architect, served as project leader. Renee Bieretz produced the large-format photography.